III. PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

The **Performance Training Reading Program** (also known as the Wehrli Learning Fitness System) is a highly successful multi-sensory reading improvement program. Performance Training is a unique teaching system that greatly increases the student's learning and retention abilities – no matter what the age or background. Independent audits in schools all across the country prove that the Performance Training Reading Program can help students increase their grade level as much as **one and one half years** – by spending thirty minutes a day (or less). The student develops basic skills that he or she already possesses: seeing (recognizing, selecting); speaking (responding and generating); hearing (listening, selecting, sounding); and writing (sounding and recording). Performance Training ignites the student's intellect; helps the student pull together all the things you teach about words – with speed, accuracy, interpretation, and integration. It helps increase student retention – provides the solid base which leads to further learning. The Detroit Learning Center has used this program since 1982 with great success with over a thousand students. Before there was any real awareness of ADD or ADHD learning difficulties, the Performance Training Reading Program was already addressing these performance problems.

The **Language Tune-Up Kit – Phonics software** uses the Orton-Gillingham curriculum of instruction. Orton-Gillingham is the most researched, most proven method of explicit, systematic, intensive, sequential phonics ever created. Professional Orton-Gillingham tutors who have a combined total of 50 years of experience designed the program's contents. The Orton-Gillingham techniques have been in use since the 1930's and have been proven with thousands of students around the world. These techniques are taught in only a very small number of public school systems today, and then only within special education classes. An intensive, sequential phonics-based system teaches the basics of word formation before whole meanings. The method accommodates and utilizes the three learning pathways, through which people learn - visual, auditory and kinesthetic. The Orton-Gillingham method teaches to a student's strengths while seeking to improve his or her weaknesses.

Language! Second Edition Student Mastery Books, Jane Fell Greene, Ed. D. Levels 1-3
Language! is based on comprehensive research. It provides practice to master the most basic aspects of the code of written English, including phoneme awareness and phoneme and grapheme correspondence. This approach is based on best practice in literacy acquisition as documented by the empirical evidence of National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institutes of Health. *Language!* integrates 18 language arts strands, but its core strand directly teaches the alphabetic code – the code upon which written English is based. This intensive instruction enables students to learn to decode and recognize words and develop fluency.
Funded by the National Center for Learning Disabilities, the *Language!* pilot study, which involved adjudicated middle and high school students with limited literacy, documented average **gains of three years** in reading, comprehension, composition, and spelling during an average of 22 weeks participation. Current evaluations by school districts and by one state department of education are documenting similar results with middle and high school students. Elementary students are also gaining about **two years** in reading during one academic year.